

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 16 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--As used herein and in the appended claims, the term "ionization potential" or "IP" refers to the energy required to remove ~~and~~ an electron from an atom, molecule or radical. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 21 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The plasma can provide some power input to heat the anode/reservoir, mainly through the backstreaming electrons depositing their kinetic energy to the anode/reservoir 20 through impact (such power input sometimes referred to herein as "waste heat"). Although the exact amount of the power supplied from the plasma to the anode/reservoir 20 will vary, it has been estimated ~~[[and]]~~ that approximately 20% of the total thruster input power can be deposited into the anode/reservoir, thus establishing an anode/reservoir power deposition rate of 20%. However, other anode/reservoir power deposition rates are possible and within the spirit and scope of the present invention. The total thruster input power may be supplied by any of a variety of external power supplies commonly-known to those of skill in the art, including without limitation, at least one of a battery, a generator, a nuclear reactor, a radioisotope thermoelectric generator (RTG), a fuel cell, a solar cell, combinations thereof, and any other power supply capable of providing electrical power. Particularly useful in providing power to thrusters is a combination of one or more solar cells, a battery and power processing electronics for conditioning the electrical power provided to the thruster.--